(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when Government intend to change these labour laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (e) Review/updation of labour laws is a continuous process in order to bring them in tune with the emerging needs of the economy. The required changes in the labour laws are accomplished by the Government after detailed consultation with the social partners with a view to harmonize the interests of all stake holders. The Bills to amend Acts like Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Establishments) Act, 1988, the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, and the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 have been introduced in the Rajya Sabha.

Retrenchment in IT, Aviation and Retail sector etc.

520. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the large scale retrenchment still continues in various sectors like IT, Aviation, Retail etc.;

(b) whether the global meltdown has had a direct impact on almost all the sectors;

(c) if so, the sector-wise details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to prevent retrenchment and ensure employment in view of "Manpower rationalization"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Labour Bureau of the Ministry of Labour & Employment has conducted two quick quarterly surveys of a few important sectors to assess the impact of economic slowdown on employment in India. The first survey was conducted in the month of January, 2009 to assess the impact during the quarter October-December, 2008. The second survey was conducted in the month of April, 2009 to assess the impact during January-March 2009. The important findings of the survey for the quarter October - December 2008 are:

- About half a million workers have lost their jobs during October-December 2008.
- The most affected sectors were gems & jewellery, transport and automobiles where the employment has declined by 8.58 per cent, 4.03 percent, and 2.42 per cent respectively during the same period. In Textile sector, 0.91 per cent of the workers have lost their jobs.
- The major impact of the slowdown was noticed in the export oriented units.

However, the second survey conducted for the quarter January-March, 2009 indicates that:

- Total estimated employment in the sectors covered had increased by 0.6% during January-March, 2009 period. Non-export units have shown higher rate (0.92%) of increase in employment as compared to export units (0.28%).

- Sectors registering increase in employment during January-March, 2009 period are gems & jewellery (3.08%), textiles (0.96%), IT-BPO (0.82%), handloom-powerloom (0.28%) and automobiles (0.10%).

- A decline in employment during January-March, 2009 has been observed in leather (2.76%), metals (0.56%) and transport (0.36%).

(d) Most of the sectors where large scale retrenchment has been reported fall under the "State" sphere. Therefore, the State Governments have been advised to make their conciliation machinery more effective and sensitive to ensure industrial peace and implement labour laws in an appropriate manner.

OECD report on employees in India

521. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Report, 9 out of 10 employees in India do not have a formal labour contract and social security benefits;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other observations made by OECD with regard to India; and

(d) how Government is planning to address this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) In the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Report it has been stated that though India grew during the last decade above 5 percentage points per year, people there feel that better jobs are not being created. It has also been stated that 9 out of 10 employees in India, approximately 370 million people, do not have formal social security.

The said report has expressed concern over the consequences of growing informal employment in the poor countries of the world, including India, and it has urged the Governments of the poor countries to prepare a comprehensive package.

According to the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 2004-05, there were 43.3 crore unorganised workers.

The Government has constituted Welfare Funds for certain occupations in the unorganised sector, like Beedi, Cine and certain Non-Coal Mine workers. Under these welfare Funds, welfare schemes, providing for health care, housing, and education to the children etc. have been formulated. However, it is true that most of the workers in the unorganised sector are not provided Social Security. Recognising the need for such social security, the Government has enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act 2008. The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board at the Central level and State Social Security Boards at the State level, which shall recommend formulation of social security schemes for unorganised workers.